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DATE July 6, 1981 10:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Ex-CIA Agents

GLORIA GIBSON: CIA agents past and present have been grumbling for years now over publication of the agency's secret operations. Now some former agents are doing something about it. They're going to sue individuals and publications who expose intelligence operations. Metromedia 5's Pat Claussen has more.

PAT CLAUSSEN: David Atlee Phillips is a former top level CIA official. He now heads a group of 600 ex-intelligence agents called Challenge, which is bankrolling lawsuits against people who expose intelligence operations.

DAVID ATLEE PHILLIPS: That in some cases we've been maligned and we've been defamed. We want to insist on our right, we feel, in a case where were the victims of liable pure and simple, that we have the right to act. And that's what we want to test.

CLAUSSEN: So far the group has filed two lawsuits. Washingtonian magazine was hit with a \$70 million liable suit for a cover story alleging that Phillips and other CIA agents took part in the assassination of former President John Kennedy. A second liable suit for \$90 million was recently filed against a group of writers who claimed that Phillips was connected to the 1976 bombing assassination of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier.

Publications which disclose the names of undercover CIA agents may draw the group's attention next.

PHILLIPS: We are looking forward to the possibilities of a class action suit against the people who so recklessly throw the names of intelligence operators around in the arena

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